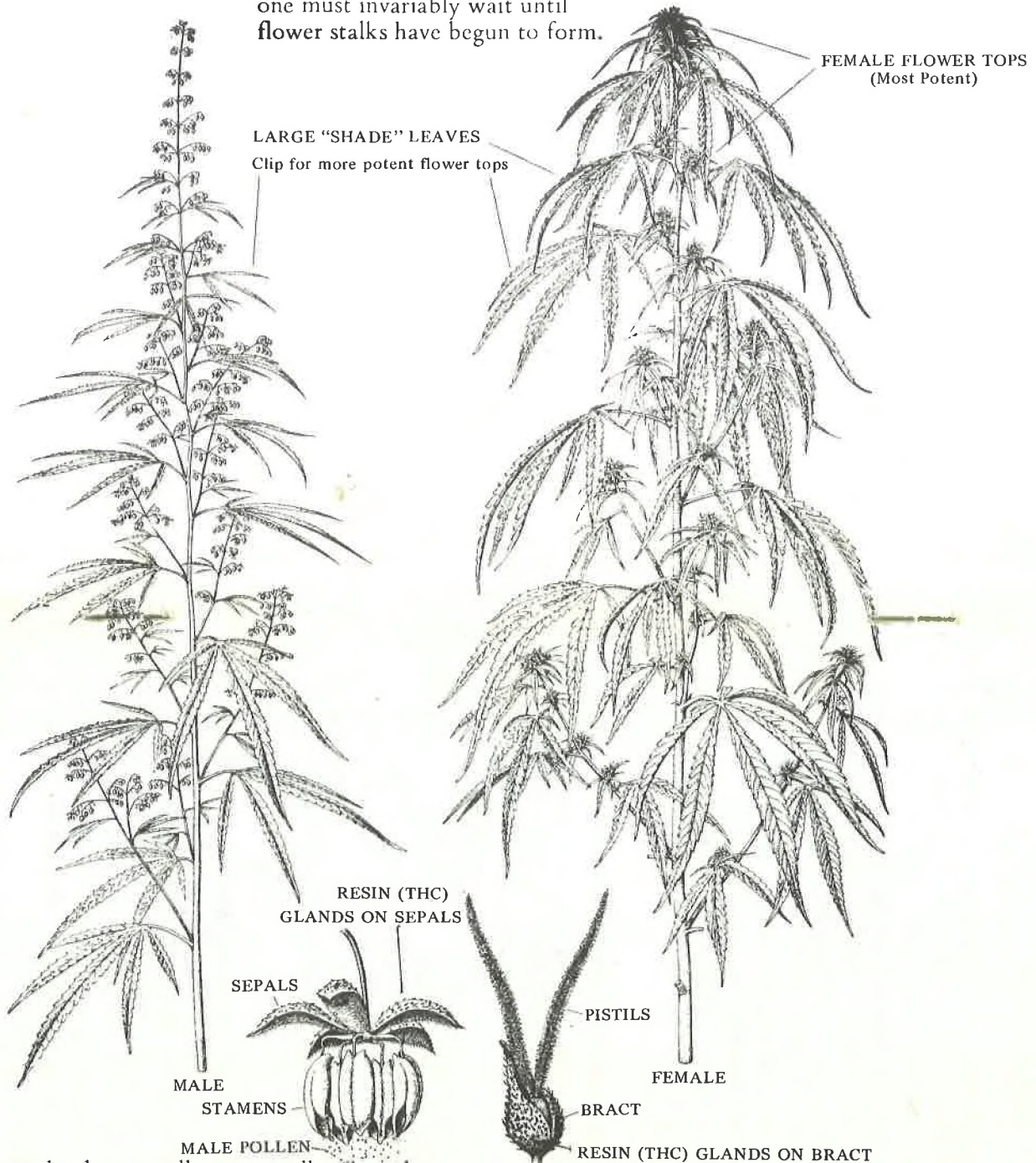


How to Distinguish the Male from the Female Plant

In order to distinguish the male from the female plant, one must invariably wait until flower stalks have begun to form.



The male plant usually grows taller than the female in order to shed its abundant yellow pollen down into the female pistil. The male flowers are borne in small axillary panicles, consisting of about 5 green-yellow or purplish sepals, which open at maturity and shed the pollen.

The female plant produces the inconspicuous pistillate flower, which does not actually look like a flower, but rather consists of green leaves in thick clusters rising to form the pistil.